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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,455	02/19/2004	Michael Aaron Kaply	AUS920031049US1(4037)	5175
45557	7590	09/08/2005	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION (JSS) C/O SCHUBERT OSTERRIEDER & NICKELSON PLLC 6013 CANNON MOUNTAIN DRIVE, S14 AUSTIN, TX 78749			HARRIS, ANTON B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2831	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/782,455	Applicant(s) KAPLY ET AL.	
	Examiner Anton B. Harris	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12 and 25-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>19 February 2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 1-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected process for mounting components to a hardware casing, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 20 July 2005.

2. Newly submitted claims 25-32 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Invention recited in claims 25-32 and elected claims 13-24 are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus such as a television or a transceiver. Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits.

3. Accordingly, claims 25-32 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrand (3,614,541).

Regarding claim 13, Ferrand (abstract) discloses a hardware casing comprising:

a pattern of interconnects 30 applied to an interior surface 8-11 of the hardware casing 7, being based upon a topography of the interior surface 8-11 and capable of transmitting signals, wherein the pattern comprises at least one independent path for transmitting a signal between the components; and mounting sites 2 designed for mounting the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) to the interior surface 8-11, the mounting sites 2 being coupled with the pattern of interconnects 30, wherein positioning of the mounting sites 2 is based upon the topography.

Regarding claim 14, Ferrand (abstract) discloses components (col. 2 lines 38-32) coupled with the pattern of interconnects 30 via the mounts 2, the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) being independently manufactured to perform distinct functions of the device.

Regarding claim 15, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that components (col. 2 lines 38-32) comprise an optical switch (figure 2) attached to the hardware casing 7 and communicatively coupled with the pattern of interconnects 30, wherein the optical switch (figure 2) toggles in response to a change in light sensed by the optical switch (figure 2).

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Regarding claim 16, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) comprise a pressure-sensitive switch (figure 2) coupled with the pattern of interconnects 30 via one of the mounts 2.

Regarding claim 17, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the pattern of interconnects 30 comprises a conductive paint (abstract) applied directly to the hardware casing 7, wherein the hardware casing 7 is composed of a substantially non-conductive plastic.

Regarding claim 18, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the hardware casing 7 is composed of a pliable material.

Regarding claim 19, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the pattern of interconnects 30 is coupled with the hardware casing 7 via at least one layer of non-conductive laminates.

Regarding claim 20, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the pattern of interconnects 30 applied to an interior surface 8-11 of the hardware casing 7 comprises a layer of metal having portions etched away to reveal the pattern of interconnects 30.

Regarding claim 21, Ferrand (abstract) discloses a system comprising:
components (col. 2 lines 38-32), the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) being manufactured independently and capable of performing separate functions of the device; a pattern of interconnects 30 applied to an interior surface 8-11 of the hardware casing 7, the pattern 30 comprising at least one independent path (abstract) for transmitting a signal between components (col. 2 lines 38-32) independently manufactured and designed to perform separate functions and mounted on the hardware casing 7, wherein the pattern 30 is based upon a topography of the interior surface (abstract); mounts 2 coupling the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) to the interior

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surface (abstract), the mounts 2 being coupled with the pattern of interconnects 30, wherein positioning of the mounts 2 is based upon the topography.

Regarding claim 22, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) comprise sensors (figure 2) to sense environmental conditions, the sensors (figure 2) being oriented to face the exterior of the system 1.

Regarding claim 23, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the pattern of interconnects 30 resides on a laminate (abstract), the laminate (abstract) being adhered to the interior surface (abstract) of the hardware casing 7.

Regarding claim 24, Ferrand (abstract) discloses that the pattern of interconnects 30 is coupled with a circuit board 12-17 internal of the device to communicatively couple the components (col. 2 lines 38-32) with other components (col. 2 lines 38-32) mounted to the circuit board 12-17.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Brown et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,502,098 discloses a system having conductive strip on the interior of the housing walls.

Boucard et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,931,908 discloses a system having conductive strip on the interior of the housing walls including componenets.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anton B Harris whose telephone number is (571) 272-1976. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr.

Dean Reichard, can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

abh

9/6/05


DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800